GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2767
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
ISSUE OF VISA FOR INDIAN EMIGRANTS TO KUWAIT
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any difference of opinion between India and Kuwait regarding the issue of visas for Indian emigrants to Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Kuwaiti Government to resolve the issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

(a)to(d) The Government of Kuwait has prescribed a particular format for the labour contract in respect of foreign workers. If the application for visa is not accompanied by the labour contract in that format the work visa is not issued. Under the bilateral MoU signed between Indian and Kuwait on Labour, Employment and Manpower Development attestation of the labour contract by the Government of Kuwait has been made a procedural requirement in the interest of the worker.

Since the Government of Kuwait is not attesting labour contracts unless they are in the stipulated format, some Indian emigrant workers have been adversely affected. The matter was discussed in the Joint Working Group constituted under the MoU in its first meeting held in New Delhi on 14-15 February 2008 and the labour contract format was finalized with the mutual agreement of the two sides. The Government of Kuwait is taking necessary internal approvals to implement the revised format as per the recommendations of the Joint Working Group.